

Foundation Special Olympics Aruba kicks-off their fundraising drive with an Art Auction at the Numismatic Museum



It was art under the stars for those attending an action featuring the work of many noted Aruban artists on Friday evening, March 30. The Foundation Special Olympics Aruba is working to raise the 100,000 Aruban florins needed to send their team of special athletes and chaperones to the International Special Olympics held every four years. This year the games will take place in Beijing, China during the month of November.

Daisy Croes and the Odor family, which maintain the Foundation JMO and the Numismatic Museum, Aruba's money museum, hosted the event in the courtyard of the museum, which is a delightful venue. The exposition room of the landmark building behind the Oranjestad bus terminal was filled with beautiful works by some of the island's top artists; many of whom are recognized internationally for their work.

Stanley Dabian and Rosalie Klein acted as Master and Mistress of Ceremonies, conducting the event in both English and Papiamentu, as it had attracted also island visitors seeking an unusual souvenir of Aruba. Kenneth Faustin, who is a certified auctioneer, did a fantastic and entertaining job as the lovely Alysee and Zarushka of Ronchi DeCuba's Knock-out Model agency displayed the works for the bidders.

The evening got off to a good start thanks to the generosity of Alex Nieuwmeyer, General Manager of Divi Properties Aruba, owners of the Divi Mega All-Inclusive, and the Tamarijn All Inclusive Resorts, along with the Divi Phoenix and Divi-Dutch Village Resorts., and The Links golf course. He presented a check of 1500 florins for a panoramic photograph by Rosalie Klein that is the view from the soon to be completed "Windows on Aruba" restaurant at The Links, part of a photographic exposition that took place at the museum during the last half of 2005.

The parade of beautiful and varied pieces that followed netted nearly 4000 florins towards sending the island's special athletes to the international games. One American family from Chicago will go home with two paintings; one by Eduardo Valbuena, and the other by Elvis Tromp, and mom Diane left the auction very pleased to be wearing a hand painted silk cape donated by Rosalie Klein, which she swore she "would not take off for the rest of the evening."

The Director of the Special Olympics Committee, Tuyo Werleman took a moment at the end of the auction to thank a number of people who had made it possible. Aside from their hosts, this included Gilbert Senchi of Oranjestad Kunsthuis and Maria Silva of Vibrations, Cherry Ras and Eddy Tech who donated the sound equipment and his services, "for the children."

Additional artists that generously contributed their work for this worthwhile cause were Melvin Anderson, Frank Croes, Michi Takatsu, Walter Wever, Elisa Lejuez, Gustave Nouel, Gwendy Sneek, Diane Keijzer, Gerda van Leeuwen, Glenda Hyleiger, Henrich Gonzalez and Nelson Carillo.

The art auction was only the first of a number of fundraising events on the long road to Beijing for Aruba's special athletes. On April 14, there will be a concert on the Freewinds Cruise Ship featuring local and international talent. Tickets are on sale now for a minimum of 25 florins and a maximum of 100 florins for front row seats. They can be purchased by calling Netty Williams at telephone #742-3306 or Tuyo Werleman at #730-0414, or reserved online by e-mail arturo_werleman@hotmail.com, and then paid for at the door.

Melvin Anderson

Rosalie Klein

Frank Croes

Greg Carvalhal

Michi Takatsu

Walter Wever

Elisa Lejuez

Elvis Tromp

Gustave Nouel

Eduardo Valbuena

Michi Takatsu

Michi Takatsu

Gwendy Sneek

Rosalie Klein

Diane Keijzer

Diane Keijzer

Gerda van Leeuwen

Edmond Tujeehut

Elvis Tromp

Miguel Arguinzones

Edmond Tjeehut

Dragonfly

Herich Gonzalez

nelson Carillo